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THE CROWN
OF AMERICAN
LEARNING.

The revival of the project of a national university at Washington will give rise to more serious discussion than this plan has received on former occasions. Americans take a more intelligent interest in education now than they did a few years ago, and the country is catching up with the grand conceptions of the fathers of the Republic, who in so many respects were a century ahead of their time.

For many years there has been a standing Senatorial Committee on the University of the United States, which has served the useful purpose of providing a chairmanship and a comfortable committee room for a respected Senator and an \$1,800 job for a deserving clerk. The body is likely now to take on a new importance.

The fact that there are already nearly four hundred colleges and universities in the country may raise the question whether there is any need for another, or even any room for it. But the National University would be in no sense a competitor of any existing institution. It would be a class by itself. It would be exclusively for graduate students, and would stand to the present universities in the same relation in which they stand to the high schools. Its object would be original research of the most advanced type.

The first work of such a university would be to make the present educational facilities at the capital fully available to students. It would be a co-ordinating body that would bind the various libraries, laboratories and museums of the Government in one mutually helpful whole. A great part of the equipment of a national university is already in existence on the most magnificent scale, but in a disjointed condition. The Library of Congress is the greatest, or at least the most numerous, collection of books in America, and that is only one of the Government's libraries at Washington. The library of the Surgeon-General's office is the most complete and perfect medical collection in the world. The library of the State Department is rich in books and manuscripts illustrating international relations, and all the other departments have valuable special libraries in their own lines. The Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum, the Naval Observatory, the laboratories of the Department of Agriculture and the Fish Commission, the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, the Census Office, which will doubtless soon be made permanent, the Geological Survey, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Department of Labor, the Bureau of Ethnology, the Hydrographic Office of the Navy Department, the Bureau of Education, and the other technical agencies connected with the Government could be of infinite service in promoting original research, and the investigations of the students might be made of some use to the Government. Congress itself could be made an unrivaled school of political science.

If the National University started with only enough professors to tell the students where to go to and the material they needed it could be of enormous service. In time it would broaden and harmonize all the Government's scientific work. It would stop the duplications of effort that are now responsible for so much waste of money and energy. It would subject the Government's experts to wholesome criticism, and help them to work in the most effective way.

The combined resources of the half dozen greatest universities in the United States could not provide the equipment and the working staff that the Government has already devoted to scientific purposes in Washington. What remains to be done is to make these resources available for the most profitable use in advancing the boundaries of knowledge.

GYMNASTICS
IN
THE PARKS.

The proposition before the Park Board to provide an open-air gymnasium designed especially for children in the East River Park, is in the line of the advance already made by the public authorities in providing for the health and recreation of the people. A few years ago public parks, especially the smaller ones, were regarded as mere breathing places in the crowded city, or as ornamental spaces, appealing to aesthetic sentiment. More and more they have been made the playgrounds of children, to serve the purpose of promoting physical vigor through out-door exercise. A new step has been taken in the recreation plan established on the water front for the benefit of those who are pent up in the city throughout the summer months.

To equip some part of one or more of the parks with gymnastic apparatus and place it in charge of a superintendent, or assistant, competent to direct the exercise of the young, is a very proper advance in the purposes for which parks are maintained. It has been done in Boston, on the Charles River Embankment, where, in favorable weather, hundreds of young people may be seen almost any day engaged with keen enjoyment in invigorating exercise. That the benefit to the health and working capacity of the community far outweighs the cost does not admit of doubt.

Money is spent lavishly upon drives and equestrian roads which are used only by the rich or the well-to-do, who are able to provide themselves with athletic clubs in town and country clubs for out-door sports, while little is done for the special benefit of the poor, who are dependent upon public provision for the means of recreation necessary to the healthy development of the young. Not only should there be an out-door gymnasium in the East River Park, but the plan should be so extended as to place one within easy access from any crowded part of the city.

RUSSIA
AND
CHINA.

The reported occupation of Port Arthur by Russia seems hardly credible. If the Russians have really taken such a step, it means nothing less than the final partition of China. It means that Germany's seizure of Kiao Chow has let loose all the pent-up jealousies of the hungry powers, and that every country with interests in the Far East will plunge into a feverish scramble for its share of the Chinese spoils.

It seems unlikely, however, that Russia would precipitate such a scramble at this time. There are indefinite possibilities of trouble in it, and Russia's action in the Mediterranean has indicated that for

the present she is trying to avoid trouble. Her role in the Far as in the Near East has been that of the protector rather than of the despoiler of the Sick Man. She has propped up China as well as Turkey, and by so doing has become the practical ruler of each. She forbade the acquisition of Port Arthur by the Japanese, and guaranteed the payment of the Chinese war indemnity.

The cession of Port Arthur would be more of a loss to China than it would be a gain to Russia. Commanding the Gulf of Pe-chili and the approaches to Tientsin and Peking, it would strike at the heart of the Chinese Empire, but it would not be correspondingly profitable to Russia, whose chief objects at present are the acquisition of an ice-free harbor as the eastern terminus of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, and the maintenance of a paternal control over China which will insure her commercial advantages in that country. The former end she can attain by securing Port Lazareff from Corea; the latter would hardly be promoted by an act of unprovoked aggression. Still, there is no telling where such an example as that of the grasping German War Lord may lead.

NEW YORK'S
CELEBRATION.

The carnival on New Year's Eve is to be the celebration of the people of New York. It is not to be a partisan display, commemorating the advent of one administration or the end of another. It is not to be the Journal's private exhibition. The Journal has merely undertaken to give the people an opportunity to express their feelings. It will be the celebration of the birth of the greatest city of the Western World, and in that festivity every citizen will be expected to have a share.

The Journal and the public-spirited organizations and citizens that are co-operating with it will provide the stage setting within which the people of New York will display themselves. That there will be a scintillating glory of electric lights, volcanoes of fireworks and floods of pulse-quickening music is a certainty, for that is simply a matter of money. What remains is the hearty co-operation of the people, that the event may be not merely a spectacular but a popular success.

Therefore let every occupant of a building or a room in the vicinity of the celebration show his pride in the new metropolis by his decorations. Let military companies and choral societies take part in the parade. Let clubs, groups of neighbors and individuals don costumes and masks and help to promote the general joy.

There will never be such another opportunity—at least, not until we have a Greater New York by the annexation of Northern New Jersey to the metropolis. In Europe they have illuminations and carnivals and frantic rejoicings when a royal family is enriched with a new baby. Americans can surely display as much interest in the birth of a city that will soon be the greatest and stateliest in all history.

THE PROSPECTS
FOR
RAPID TRANSIT.

Naturally, efforts are being made by the spokesmen of capitalists and corporations, who for mercenary reasons are hostile to the underground rapid transit plan, to show that the decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Friday is a death blow to that project. It was only to be expected that a decision which offered opportunity for quibbling on the part of people naturally predisposed to a certain view should be so utilized. But in fact under this mandate the work of letting contracts need not be materially delayed, though possibly it may have to go over until after the incoming of the first administration of Greater New York. The mere fact of a question as to the time limit which shall be put upon the very heavy bond—\$15,000,000—required of contractors need not interrupt the work of construction, though it doubtless does add complications to a situation not wholly simple.

That which the people of a great and rapidly growing city demand will infallibly be granted. The Court shows in its decision its recognition of the existence of this demand. It leaves but two questions undetermined, one which must receive the adjudication of a higher court, and one which depends upon the enterprise of New York's men of affairs.

Are there men of means in New York willing to put up a bond of \$15,000,000 continuing during the period prescribed for the construction and operation of the road, in consideration of this invaluable contract? That is the question which the financial community must answer.

Does the entire estimated cost of the underground road become added to the debt of the city the minute the contract is let, or only as the periodic payments are made? That is the question the Court of Appeals must determine.

Both should be easy of response. Common sense will determine the answers to both.

THE DE-
VELOPMENT OF A
NEW ART.

Day by day the possibilities of that magnificent accomplishment of science, the vitascope—or biograph, or kineoscope, or cinematograph, according to the variety show in which it happens to figure—are becoming more apparent. It has slowly progressed from the marvellously unnatural but doubtless scientifically exact trotting horses of Muybridge to the engagingly life-like prize fights with which Mr. Edison, who wastes his time on iron ore separators, phonographs and telephones, has endowed a later generation. Yesterday they applied a vitascope to one of those public "hangings" for which Missouri is justly noted, and which have helped to make the name of that State synonymous with all that invites the cultured and refined to dwell within its borders. Four hundred people assembled to view the execution—besides the man on the drop, who, like "Nanki Poo," was there, but couldn't see the fireworks. But it seems that a solemn crowd viewing a hanging would never do for a vitascope; so emissaries of the photographer circled among the throng, paying some to weep, some to cheer, some to rush to the rescue of the man who held the centre of the stage.

When the drop fell there was tumult everywhere, except where the vitascope apparatus was mechanically recording the scene. And so in a few days doubtless any New Yorker who wishes to see a hanging without taking the trouble to go to Missouri will be able to have his yearnings vitascopically gratified at small price.

Evidently this great and useful invention of eminent scientists—who, we think, still draw royalties from its practical applications—has not reached the limit of its capacity. While the pushing throng at

the Liberty (Mo.) execution may have been suborned by the vitascope managers, there is nothing to show that the man who was hanged had his share of the profits. Besides, the last act of a tragedy, however stirring, is not wholly satisfactory without what precedes it.

How long will it be before some enterprising manager of vitascope attractions secures a good picture of the commission of a crime and the lynching of the criminal? If it could be one of the good Texas lynchings, involving burning at the stake, how excellent a thing it would be for the cultivation of theatre-goers throughout the Union.

Private life will doubtless find itself in a crowded condition until it becomes accustomed to the presence of Hon. James H. Eckels, the after dinner specialist, who has been serving his country by taking dark and gloomy views of its future.

There are doubtless people in this State and Maryland who feel that considerable good might be accomplished if an exchange of political pulpits could be effected between David B. Hill and Arthur P. Gorman.

No doubt Mr. Tom Reed would like very much to equip the Senate with a set of his rules, but he will wait until that body expresses a desire for something in that line before he takes action.

The exemption of 45,000 offices from the civil service regulations will give the civil service plank of the St. Louis platform an opportunity to sympathize with its Cuban companion.

General Blanco's policy of buying up the opposition looks as if he has substituted the cash register for the Weyer typewriter.

With two more German war vessels en route Li Hung Chang will do well to put in all his time nailing down desirable territory.

The readers of the Congressional Record are to receive their treat in the shape of a holiday suspension of that journal.

Mr. Foraker is making a mighty effort to enact the role of the disinterested spectator in the Ohio Senatorial fight.

The employees of Mark Hanna's Ohio legislative mine appear to be finding considerable fault with the scale.

The Cleveland duck hunts are undoubtedly dropping into innocuous desuetude.

Now is Our Time for Hawaii.

Now we can acquire the Islands, with all the wealth they include, with all the advantages of position, influence and power with which they would endow us, and practically without cost or fight or friction with any foreign power. But if we are insane enough to leave them to their fate our American policy will become the laughing stock of Europe, and we will have to go to war or acknowledge ourselves for all time a provincial aggregation of unimportant settlers in North America, without any interests or rights that the great powers of the earth are bound to or will respect.—Washington Times.

Can We Play Dog in the Manger?

The United States are already committed to the doctrine that any "interference" with Hawaii on the part of any other nation would be regarded as an unfriendly act, but this does not necessarily include the voluntary offer of the Islands to another power by the present owners of them. It would be a curious performance for us to refuse the Islands and then declare that no other nation shall have them even by friendly cession.—Detroit Evening News.

New York Will Be Heard From.

The decision not to have a formal celebration of the cent of the lesser New York and the entrance of the Greater New York does not do credit either to the enterprise or the public spirit of the citizens of the metropolis. It is not unlikely, however, that in spite of the failure of the Mayor's committee some of those days there will be a fit celebration.—Rochester Post-Express.

An Accurate Prediction.

Journalism, ever on the alert for new triumphs, has scored another enterprise by the New York Journal publishing the President's forthcoming message. At least an abstract of the document that will be given to the world next week has been published by that paper, and it will probably be found to be approximately, if not entirely, correct.—Altoona Times.

The Power of Modern Journalism.

The honest journalist of the present day stands more nearly in the attitude of the people's advocate than any other one figure in the social scheme. He is in touch with every interest of humanity. His paper can advance or retard the world's progress more definitely than any other power known to the world.—St. Louis Republic.

The Spirit of Democracy.

Democracy is nationality. Journal. Yes, the nationality of Liberty; the nationality of "we the People." It knows no North, no South, no East, no West—no sectionalism, no class—the Republic of Freedom—the Vox Populi.—Bridgeport Star.

Rescue While You Wait.

The New York Journal is still engaged in the rescue business. It has just rescued forty miles of streets from the street railway corporations by the injunction process.—Chicago Chronicle.

EDITORIALS BY THE PEOPLE.

A Christmas Present for Cuba.

The Journal has accomplished many big things and, as I take it, is ready to take on others. Hence the one which I suggest in all earnestness:

In our season of Christmas joys and gifts let us not forget poor, suffering, struggling but gallant little Cuba. Let us make free Cuba a present—a New Year's present. While your more or less esteemed contemporary is asking, day after day, "Do we lose liberty?" let the Journal act and prove that we do, as I believe it is the case. The people have had no means of expression—no outlet. The Journal can provide it if it will. Give us a chance to show it. My suggestion is this: "A Greater New York New Year's gift for free Cuba—1,000,000 (one million) dimes contributed by the people of the greater city for a free and greater Cuba." Every child, even, has a few dimes extra at this season, and I honestly believe that with Journal aid the fund can be raised in the time stated. My means are modest, but I can afford twenty-five or thirty dimes, and am sure I can raise two or three hundred more, and believe there are several thousand others who can and will do as well. The cause of liberty—the cause of Cuba, is a holy one and a worthy one. The "Spirit of '76" and the feelings of Patrick Henry are not dead, I think you will find. I pray that you consider it. R. GEE.

A Henry George Enthusiast.

Dear Sir: Your publication of Henry George's new book in the Journal is the most enterprising and best and most patriotic work ever done by an American Journal. Now, after finishing "Science of Political Economy," why not publish George's "Social Problems" and "Progress and Poverty" in the same way. Last Sunday's paper sold on Detroit's streets for one dollar each, and the Journal was the talk of the town. "Progress and Poverty," being better known, would take like wildfire. You are doing a great and patriotic work in publishing these works of George. The single tax is coming as sure as the sun shines! Detroit, Dec. 14. E. R. WESTFIELD.

The Rescue of Brooklyn's Streets.

Editor of the Journal. Accept congratulations on your great victory. The argument of ex-Governor Hill proves conclusively that the American Bar is not despicable. Now let the Journal see to it that no other scheme coming under Section 73 and Section 170 is forced on the people by the Mayor and Common Council of the Borough of Brooklyn. G. AUGUSTUS HAYLAND. Brooklyn, Dec. 14, 1897.

HENRY GEORGE'S RELIGION, BY
FATHERS M'GLYNN AND DUCEY.

The Two Priests Who Knew Him So Well Write Eloquent
of the Dead Philosopher's Faith
in Things Divine.

THE world at large knew Henry George only as a great philosopher and political economist, but there was another side to the great man; a side that reflected religion and a faith as simple and certain as a child's. He was never a scoffing philosopher. With all the close, hard, materialistic and analytic reasoning that made "Progress and Poverty" the book of the time, George never had his faith weakened. Of the great agnostics who excluded Providence from the scheme of things he only said: "It seems reasonable to them; it is not reasonable to me." In a recent sermon Rev. Dr. McGlynn said of him: "Henry George was singularly endowed with a spiritual nature. With him the truths of the spirit, rather than material things, were the realities. He believed intensely in the immortality of the soul. It was a necessary and a most important factor in all his philosophy; and he believed in God with a clear, perfect Creator, not any scheme of true philosophy, political economy or of politics that should not be based upon the doctrine of the spirituality and immortality of the soul, its conscious relations to the Creator as the author and sanctioner of the moral law, and a life hereafter, in which that moral law shall be fully vindicated."

His posthumous book (now being published in the Sunday Journal) is a far more exhaustive study of the economic problem, and in it there still shows Henry George's faith in God.

Dr. McGlynn and Father Ducey, the two ecclesiastics who knew him best, though he was not a Roman Catholic, have written of Henry George's religion for the Journal.

DR. M'GLYNN'S TRIBUTE TO HIS FRIEND'S BELIEFS.



REV. DR. M'GLYNN

She is known in the Church as Sister Clara, I had the pleasure of Teresa, and has been for some time a walking with him toward his house. I teacher in a convent in St. Louis. was a beautiful, starlit night. We were Mr. George, with the maturing of earnestly discussing the results of the election, when, looking up toward the heavens, edge, suffered some eclipse of the Mr. George, with a sort of rapture, god-religious faith of his childhood, as deeply exclaimed, "How beautiful!" and has so many others who could not then, forgetting all things earthly, he reconcile their larger view and linked of God and of immortality. This knowledge with the two narrow and me was one of the strongest indications of one-sided presentation of religious the intensity of the religion of Mr. George. I recall that once Henry George told me truth by many of its unwise teach- I recall that once Henry George told me ers. My warrant for saying this of an acrimonious encounter and a conse- quent cooling of friendship with a well-known editor, who was a sort of high and Poverty," where he tells how, priest among agnostics. This man had confessed it at the end of "Progress and Poverty," where he tells how, priest among agnostics. This man had having been perplexed by the prob- given Mr. George the impression that he lem of his books and sought its solution, he also found something else, and a "faith that was dead re- which showed his religious belief.

Henry George was possessed of an extraor- dinary intellect and endowed with sin- gular logical powers. By his natural gifts and by the training of them in his wide reading and hard study, he had acquired a clearness of vision that enabled him to see conclusions and the relative value of various truths with such clearness that it seemed the result of intuition rather than mere reasoning.

I believe in the Providence of God, do believe that Providence gave to the peculiar gifts of Mr. George a great and a special mission, and even special helps and leading to fulfill that mission. I do believe that not infrequently there is given an inspiration to men who unselfishly seek to know and preach the truths that are for the healing of the nations, and that Henry George had this inspiration in no small measure. A good part of the world has already learned to take seriously the sneering designation of Henry George by the Duke of Argyll when he called him the "Prophet of San Francisco."

I say it with emphasis (for no man knew Henry George better than I did), that Henry George was singularly endowed with a spiritual nature. With him the things of the spirit rather than material things were the realities. He believed intensely in the immortality of the soul. It was a necessary and a most important factor in all his philosophy, and he believed in God with a clearness of faith that was almost a vision. He could not conceive of a world without an infinite all-wise and perfect Creator, nor of any scheme of true philosophy, political economy or of politics that should not be based upon the doctrine of the spirituality and immortality of the soul, its conscious relation to the Creator as the author and the sanctioner of the moral law, and a life hereafter in which that moral law shall be fully vindicated.

I may be permitted to relate here a story which I related to a few friends who stood about the remains of my departed friend as they were about to be carried from his home to their final resting place. On the night of election day in 1888, after it was ascertained that Mr. George was de-

FATHER DUCEY ON HENRY GEORGE'S SOCIALISM.



FATHER DUCEY

his memory is consecrated in divine principles and the people's just rights in our world civilization. The principles Henry George stood for, Henry George well knew, were not of his creation. He knew well he was simply God's Crusader, defending the principles of God the Creator and the principles which Christ, the Incarnate God, taught in this world. Henry George recognized conditions which Christ found in the first century, injustice and Oppression of the People. These conditions Henry George recognized exist and are intensified in our day, hence, by every means in his power he sought to enliven the just rights of his fellow man.

Christ sought the redemption of the people in time and the salvation and happiness of the people for and in eternity. He, because Jesus Christ has taught it, Henry George labored for the carrying out of God's principles and the rights of Justice for all God's creatures. This, as I understand it, is the socialism of Henry George. Christ taught these principles to the world and Henry George humbly followed in the Master's footsteps. A week before his death I talked with Henry George on the teachings of Jesus Christ, and I said to him: "You do not

say about a city block in size—but I fear I would tire of the monotony in the meals. "The Married One—Say! With a new cook every week or ten days, with three or four day intermissions when your wife, or your wife's mother, does the cooking, you would find that there was variety in life."—Indianapolis Journal.

Out of Place. He had faced some angry mobs, he had spoken from the stump; He had been upon the platform, too; But he lost his nerve and blushed and felt like a silly chump When his wife took him trailing through The big department stores that were crowded to the doors With women who appeared to think that he

Had pushed himself into where everybody knew A modest, manly man should never, never be, —Cleveland Leader.

Ohio Women vs. Men. [Washington Post.] An Ohio woman proposes to fast thirty days. There is a vast difference between the Ohio women and the Ohio men.

Right. [Washington Star.] Mr. Van Hook will doubtless do all in his power to show that New York is not only the biggest city in the country, but that it has the biggest Mayor.

WEATHER —Fair, cold, er, northwest winds.